

Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee



The LECC LINK

**LINKING LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THE COMMUNITY
IN THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA**

ALICE H. MARTIN, U.S. ATTORNEY, Chair LECC

A newsletter published by the U.S. Attorney's Office

Issue No. 9

Spring 2004



A Message from the U.S. Attorney, Alice H. Martin...

First, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation and commend the entire law enforcement community for the superb job done in 2003. Your selfless-service, personal commitment, and devotion to serving and protecting our families, neighborhoods, and communities serve as the cornerstone in the protection and security of our homeland.

Last year was a very challenging and productive year within our district. As a result of your hard work and determination, numerous arrests were made and drug/property seizures increased, which led to many significant state and federal prosecutions and convictions. Our district led the nation in prosecutions relating to the production and distribution of child pornography over the Internet. We also witnessed the apprehension and arrest of Eric Robert Rudolph. My office is currently leading the prosecution of the former fugitive charged in the deadly bombing of a Birmingham family planning clinic in 1998. He is also charged in the Northern District of Georgia with the Centennial Park Olympic bombing and two other bombings in Atlanta. Additionally, we are leading the \$2.74 billion fraud investigation of HealthSouth. The investigation has resulted in the guilty pleas of 17 executives, including all five of the former Chief Financial Officers and the Indictment of the former Chief Executive Officer/Chairman.

Now that we are well into 2004, we are seeing that this year will be equally as challenging. As our district continues to be plagued by Methamphetamine, which has nearly reached epidemic proportion nationwide, we have noticed an increased trend associating Methamphetamine cases with Identity Theft. I urge you to be aware of this emerging trend and continue to fight to eradicate this problem from our district. To assist in your efforts, my **LECC Coordinator** along with the **United States Secret Service** and the **Drug Enforcement Administration** are currently working together to schedule training seminars to address these and many other issues that plague us. As always, your training ideas, comments and suggestions are welcome.

Finally, I am honored and pleased to announce that I was recently appointed to serve a two-year term on **Attorney General John Ashcroft's 2004 Advisory Committee of United States Attorneys**. For more information on the workings of this committee of select U. S. Attorneys visit the new web site www.usa.doj.gov/dir/staff/agac/index.html. I also continue to serve on the subcommittees for Terrorism and National Security, White Collar Fraud, and the Child Exploitation & Obscenity Working Group. If you have issues you think should have the attention of these committees I hope you will call upon me with these concerns and comments.

Again, I thank each of you and applaud your efforts. I encourage you to stay the course in your endeavors to make and keep our communities safe.

Alice H. Martin

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Birmingham Weed & Seed Partners with Local Defy Program

As part of the Northern District's Drug Demand Reduction Initiative program, **Birmingham Weed and Seed, Inc.** has established a partnership with the **Department of the Navy's** Drug Education For Youth (DEFY) program. The local DEFY program is sponsored by the Naval and Marine Reserve Center located in Bessemer, Alabama.

Reducing the demand for illegal drugs is one of **President Bush's** national priorities. Combining the Weed and Seed strategy with the DEFY program is an ideal example of community-based demand reduction. Community-based demand reduction efforts involve law enforcement and community organizations working together to reduce the demand for illegal drugs through public awareness, education, and treatment.

U.S. Attorney Martin stated, "... Ultimately, the goal is for our youth to engage in positive, healthy lifestyles as drug-free citizens, with the necessary skills to be successful in their lives through coordinated community participation, commitment, and leadership."

DEFY is a one year, multi-phase program consisting of a 5 - 8 day summer training camp and a school-year mentoring program that targets youth ages 9 to 12. The comprehensive program reduces risk and strengthens protective factors which scientific research has directly linked to adolescent alcohol and drug abuse, school failure, delinquency, and violence. DEFY strengthens the ability and resolve of its young graduates to resist the pressures to become involved with illegal drugs and gangs that many of them will eventually experience. The goals are to develop relationships between youth and positive adult role models, deliver life skills-training, and deter drug use and gang involvement.

Weed and Seed is a strategy within the **Department of Justice** that incorporates community-based initiatives. It is an innovative and comprehensive multi-agency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention, and community revitalization. The goal is to prevent, control, and reduce violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity in targeted high-crime neighborhoods. The Birmingham Weed and Seed site consists of the Central City, Druid Hills, and Norwood Neighborhoods.



Birmingham
Weed & Seed



Drug Education for Youth

If your community is interested in becoming an officially recognized Weed & Seed site, please contact the U.S. Attorney's Office at (205) 244-2001 or check out the Executive Office for Weed and Seed website at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/eows/abouteow.htm>.

FEDERAL FUNDING SOURCES

Program/Organization: COPS Methamphetamine Grants/U.S. Department of Justice Response Center

Grants are available to help state and local law enforcement agencies reduce the production, distribution, and use of methamphetamine. These community policing grants encourage recipients to develop partnerships with such entities as community leaders, local fire departments, drug courts, prosecutors, child protective services, treatment providers and other law enforcement agencies to create a coordinated response to methamphetamine proliferation. **Website:** <http://www.cops.usdoj.gov> **Phone:** (800) 421-6770

Community Outreach/Federal Funding



SENIOR CRIME PREVENTION ACADEMY

By: Lynnette C. McGowens
Victim-Witness Advocate

The Madison County Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (S.A.L.T.) Agreement was formed in May 1995, based upon an agreement between the Madison County Sheriff's Department, the Huntsville Police Department, the Madison Police Department, and the American Association for Retired Persons (A.A.R.P.). The program was established to educate senior citizens on crime, public safety, and how to avoid becoming victims of crime. The course takes place twice a year in spring and fall, and continues for a 8 to 12 week period. Over 400 seniors have earned certificates of graduation from the Academy. The goals and objectives of this program are to assist seniors with understanding law enforcement, the criminal justice system (local, state, and federal), crime prevention and intervention techniques. Assistant U.S. Attorneys from the U.S. Attorney's Huntsville Branch Office participate by making presentations explaining how the law enforcement and prosecution process works; the role of the U.S. Attorney within the criminal justice system; the effect of crimes on citizens; and how local, state, and federal agencies work together to combat crime. Also given are tips on how citizens can protect themselves from scams and crimes such as fraud and identity theft.



L - R: Russell Penfield Deputy Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney, Huntsville Branch Office and Pat Colson, Program Coordinator



IDENTITY THEFT IDENTITY FRAUD

The Department of Justice prosecutes cases of identity theft and fraud under a variety of federal statutes. In the fall of 1998, for example, Congress passed the Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act. This legislation created a new offense of identity theft,

knowingly transfer[ring] or us[ing], without lawful authority, a means of identification of another person with the intent to commit, or to aid or abet, any unlawful activity that constitutes a violation of Federal law, or that constitutes a felony under any applicable State or local law.

18 U.S.C § 1028(a)(7). This offense, in most circumstances, carries a maximum term of 15 years imprisonment, a fine, and criminal forfeiture of any personal property used or intended to be used to commit the offense. Schemes to commit identity theft or fraud may also involve violations of other statutes such as identification fraud, credit card fraud, computer fraud, mail fraud, wire fraud, or financial institution fraud. Each of these federal offenses are felonies and carry substantial penalties - in some cases, as high as 30 years imprisonment, fines, and criminal forfeiture.

Identity theft and identity fraud are terms used to refer to all types of crime in which someone wrongfully obtains and uses another person's personal data in some way that involves fraud or deception, typically for economic gain.

Unlike your fingerprints, which are unique to you and cannot be given to someone else for their use, your personal data - especially your Social Security number, your bank account or credit card number, your telephone calling card number and other valuable identifying data - can be used, if they fall into the wrong hands, to personally profit at your expense.

WHAT SHOULD I DO TO AVOID BECOMING A VICTIM OF IDENTITY THEFT AND FRAUD?

To reduce or minimize the risk of becoming a victim of identity theft or fraud, there are some basic steps you can take:

- ✓ Don't give out your Social Security number or your account numbers over the telephone unless you initiated the call.
- ✓ Be sure to tear up any receipts, bank statements or unused credit card offers before you throw them away.
- ✓ When sending or viewing personal or financial information online, make sure your browser's padlock or key icon is active.
- ✓ Protect your personal identification numbers and passwords, and change them frequently. Never carry this information with you.

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Sheriff Launches Community Notification Program

By: Randy Christian, Deputy Sheriff, Public Information Officer

Sheriff Mike Hale to provide new Internet-based Sex Offender Notification Service to schools, day care centers, libraries, and citizens throughout Jefferson County

On December 2, 2003, **Jefferson County Sheriff Mike Hale** launched a new Internet-based technology service which will keep the county's citizens better informed as to the whereabouts of registered sex offenders. Sheriff Hale unveiled the new community notification system, which includes three new features. Access to the names of offenders is now available at the sheriff's Web site, www.jeffcosheriff.org. Maps of the offender's address can also be viewed so that the public can better assess their risk proximity. The Sheriff will also make a sophisticated email alert and monitoring service available that will keep enrolled citizens informed whenever a registered sex offender moves into their neighborhood.

The debut of the email alert and monitoring service, powered by iCrimeWatch.net, marks the first time that Alabama citizens will receive the same level of access to the powerful database mapping and notification technology previously utilized only by law enforcement officers. The **Jefferson County Sheriff's Office** will provide the iCrimeWatch email alert and monitoring service to all of the police departments, schools, day care centers, libraries, and any citizen throughout the county. Should a registered sex offender ever move within one mile of the monitored address, the school or day care center or resident contact will receive an email alert, along with a map of the offender's address and a link to any other available information. The Sheriff's Office will use the system to distribute other crime alerts and safety tip information as well.

"The National Bureau of Justice Statistics tells us that 45 percent of the victims of sex abuse crimes are under 12 years old. My ultimate goal is to prevent any child from being a victim of sexual abuse," said Sheriff Hale. Residents can click through to www.iCrimeWatch.net/jefferson to get more information about the monitoring service. While at the sex offender web site any address can be entered within Jefferson County to get a risk assessment letting them know how many registered sex offenders live within one mile of their homes. Upon becoming a member, residents receive an email alert with complete maps, names and addresses of sex offenders living within a mile of their home or any other address they want to monitor. Every time a new registered sex offender moves within a mile of the monitored address, the member receives a similar email alert. This service will also supply child safety tips and other valuable information to educate families and help them better manage any potential dangers.

For more information, please visit the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Web site at www.jeffcosheriff.org.



THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE...

Angela Redmond Debro receives a Certificate of Appreciation from officials of NASA for resolving and closing a case in which a defendant, who was employed by NASA, was charged with Theft of Government Property in the amount of \$15,000.00.

L - R: John H. Corbett, SAC, NASA-OIG; Angela R. Debro, AUSA-Huntsville Branch Office; Janet B. Cox, Special Agent, NASA-OIG; and Lance G. Carrington, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations

IDENTITY THEFT IDENTITY FRAUD

Continued from Page 3

WHAT SHOULD I DO TO AVOID BECOMING A VICTIM OF IDENTITY THEFT AND FRAUD?

If you think you've become a victim of identity theft or fraud, act immediately to minimize the damage to your personal funds and financial accounts, as well as your reputation. The following are actions that you should take right away:

Contact the **Federal Trade Commission (FTC)** to report the situation:

Consumer Response Center
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20580
Phone: (877) 438-4338

You may also need to contact your local **Postal Inspection Service** if you suspect that an identity thief has submitted a change-of-address form with the Post Office to redirect your mail, or has used the mail to commit frauds involving your identity; the **Social Security Administration** if you suspect that your Social Security number is being fraudulently used (call (800) 269-0271 to report fraud), the **Internal Revenue Service** if you suspect the improper use of identification information in connection with tax violations (call (800) 829-0433) to report the violations.

Also call the fraud units of the three principal credit reporting companies:

- 1) Equifax
P.O. Box 740250
Atlanta, GA 30374-0250
Phone: (800) 525-6285
- 2) Experian
P.O. Box 1017
Allen, TX 75013
Phone: (888) 397-3742
- 3) Trans Union
P.O. Box 6790
Fullerton, CA 92634
Phone: (800) 680-7289

If you are a victim of Identity Theft/Identity Fraud or you would just like additional information concerning such crimes, go to the following website:

<http://www.usdoj.gov/criminal/fraud/idtheft.html>

INTERACTING WITH THE U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE PERSONNEL

Anti-Terrorism Task Force/Domestic Terrorism
Robert J. McLean (205) 244-2200

Asset Forfeiture
James D. Ingram (205) 244-2130
Katherine L. Corley (205) 244-2131

*Child Exploitation & Obscenity/Computer/
Telecommunications Crime*
James E. Phillips (205) 244-2215

Civil Rights
Frank M. Salter (205) 244-2208

Criminal Chief
James A. Sullivan (205) 244-2240

Deputy Chief (Huntsville Branch Office)
Russell E. Penfield (256) 534-8285

Environmental Litigation
Robert O. Posey (205) 244-2216

Financial Institution Fraud
Ronald R. Brunson (205) 244-2211

Health Care Fraud/Insurance Fraud
Herbert H. Henry, III (205) 244-2020

Immigration/Trafficking/Worker's Exploitation
Adolph J. Dean (205) 244-2213

Law Enforcement Coordinator/Weed & Seed
Lyndon J. Laster (205) 244-2092

Narcotics Enforcement
John C. Earnest (205) 244-2202

Public Corruption
Miles M. Hart (205) 244-2212

Violent Crimes Coordinator
William G. Simpson (205) 244-2207

Project Safe Neighborhoods (Huntsville Branch Office)
Alison S. Blackwell (256) 534-8285

Victim-Witness
Susan Means (205) 244-2091



ATAC Coordinator: Joe McLean
Intelligence Research Specialist: Tammy Ellis

Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council

Sharing Terrorism-Related Information

The Department of Justice's number one priority is to protect America against the threat of terrorism. In order to do this, federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, first responders, and other non-governmental organizations must be kept informed. The Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council (ATAC) was established in September 2001 to aid in this mission, with one of its primary functions being to share timely terrorism-related information with all the various law enforcement agencies.

The Intelligence Research Specialist (IRS) position was created to assist in bridging the information gap that often exists between federal and state/local law enforcement agencies. The IRS has been put on distribution for pertinent unclassified law enforcement sensitive reports from federal, state, military, academic, research and media sources. A goal of the IRS is to match organizations' individual needs with terrorism-related information and reports.

At the present, the IRS is forwarding FBI Intelligence Bulletins, Department of Homeland Security warnings, and other pertinent information. However, there is much more relevant information available. The IRS wants to meet with a representative from your organization to discuss your individual information needs. If you have a criminal intelligence person on your staff, this would be the right person to have meet with the IRS. If you do not have a criminal intelligence person you can designate another individual. We want to provide you the tailored support you need. Please have your representative contact the IRS, Tammy R. Ellis at (205) 244-2188.

Quarterly ATAC Meeting

The ATAC meeting provides a central forum where law enforcement agencies can congregate, share information and develop initiatives and strategies. This meeting is an excellent venue for terrorism-related training. The ATAC meeting belongs to you, and we want to hear from you. Please let us know what training topics you would like to see presented at the quarterly ATAC meetings. Contact Tammy R. Ellis at (205) 244-2188 and provide her with your suggestions.

UPCOMING LECC TRAINING

April 18 - 24, 2004
April 23, 2004

CRIME VICTIMS RIGHTS WEEK
Recognizing Victims in the Federal System Training Seminar
Location: Harbert Center, 2019 4th Avenue, North, Birmingham, AL
Time: 8:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

June 25, 2004

IDENTITY THEFT SEMINAR
Location: Birmingham, AL

May 12, 2004 (Complaint Intake) **LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE SERIES**
June 9, 2004 (Use of Force) Location: Bessemer State Technical College, Ethel Hall
July 7, 2004 (Racial Profiling) 1100 9th Avenue, Southwest
August 10 & 11 2004 (Early Warning) Bessemer, AL

July 22 & 23, 2004

METHAMPHETAMINE TRAINING

July 16, 2004

SCRIPWATCH

September 1 - 3, 2004

17th ANNUAL STATEWIDE LECC CONFERENCE
Location: Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach, AL

For more information about upcoming training events, contact the LECC Coordinator, Lyndon J. Laster by phone at (205) 244-2001, by email at: Lyndon.Laster@usdoj.gov, or visit the U.S. Attorney's website at: <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/aln/>





By: *Alison Blackwell, PSN Coordinator*

By working together, we can continue to send a message to felons who possess firearms and drug traffickers who use firearms during drug trafficking offenses of zero tolerance for gun crimes. Over the past 4 months, over 63 **ICE** cases have been referred to the **United States Attorney's Office** from 16 counties in our district, including Blount, Calhoun, Cherokee, Cullman, Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Madison, Marion, Morgan, St. Clair, Talladega, Tuscaloosa and Walker County, with an average **ICE** sentence of 57 months. Training with local law enforcement has continued and with only three counties remaining for **ICE** training. Our **ICE** efforts are truly blanketing the Northern District.

Production has wrapped up on the Re-Entry video and will be ready for distribution in the very near future. This video will be distributed to all state correctional institutions and will educate felony inmates who are about to be paroled on the stiff penalties they will face should they be found in possession of a firearm. Further, because some district attorneys have expressed an interest in showing this video in their local jails, a copy will be distributed to all district attorney's offices in the Northern District.

Dedicated prosecutorial and investigative partnerships remain a cornerstone in the **Alabama ICE** initiative. The **Morgan County District Attorney**, in partnership with the **Decatur Police Department** and the **Morgan County Sheriff's Office**, has called its county's initiative **FREEZ (Firearms Regulation Enforcement and Education Zone)**. "Law enforcement officers in Morgan County are grateful for the efforts of the **U.S. Attorney's Office** and federal agents in combating gun violence here. **Alabama ICE/FREEZE** is making a difference in Morgan County. Through state and federal cooperation, we are sending a message to the streets that gun violence will be prosecuted by the most effective means available," notes **Bob Burrell, Morgan County District Attorney**. The commitment and resources devoted to this initiative are translating into tangible results with quick case dispositions and tough sentences.

As noted by the **Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) Resident Agent in Charge David Hyche**, "As part of the overall effort to combat firearm violence in the Northern District, **ATF** and our law enforcement partners are going after the sources of firearms to prohibited people. These sources are often identified through information developed when law enforcement officers interview suspects arrested with firearms and trace recovered firearms. Many people believe that the majority of crime guns come from residential thefts but this has not proven to be the case. A few licensed dealers and many unlicensed dealers have been found to be major sources of firearms to prohibited people. We have been very successful in our efforts to investigate these sources of crime guns and bring them to justice thanks to a cooperative effort between state and local law enforcement and prosecutors, the US Attorney's Office and ATF."

Please contact Ms. Alison Blackwell at the United States Attorney's Huntsville Branch office at 256-534-8285 for free specialized federal firearm statute training.

Fighting Back Against Meth

Methamphetamine has become a major problem in the Northern District of Alabama. On the news we've heard many reports of numerous deaths, fires and explosions related to the manufacturing of this deadly and highly addictive drug. To stop the demand for this attainable drug in the Huntsville/Madison County area, the **Partnership for a Drug-Free Community's** Law Enforcement Coalition developed an educational campaign which would alert youth and families about the dangers of

methamphetamine. This dedicated group, led by **Sgt. Jim Winn, Huntsville Police Department**, and commander of the Strategic Counterdrug Team, planned a series of town forums which were held in February. The coalition includes **Drug Enforcement Agent, Rocky Harnen; Sgt, Michael Salmonskey, Madison County Sheriff's Department; Investigator Matt Thornberry, Madison County District Attorney's Office; Sammy Helton, HEMS**, and various Health Care Professionals. Over 225 youth and adults attended these forums and the surveys revealed an 83

percent increase of awareness and knowledge of methamphetamine. Methamphetamine has arrived in our community, but it is not welcome. The attendees learned what to do, what to look for and where to go for help. They are armed with knowledge and will fight back against the drugs that try to destroy our youth.

Taken from the Huntsville Times dated, March 4, 2004. Article written by Deborah Soule, the Executive Director of Partnership for a Drug-Free Community, Inc.





L: Officer Anthony Lee (Tony) Mims

R: Sgt. Larry Wayne Russell

Fallen..but not Forgotten

Honoring Sgt. Larry Russell and
Officer Anthony Lee (Tony) Mims
Athens Police Department

Information taken from the Atlanta Journal-Constitution



On January 2, 2004, **Sgt. Larry Russell** and **Officer Anthony Lee (Tony) Mims** were shot and killed while responding to a 911 call. We honor these men for their legacy of commitment, dedication and service.



Attention Law Enforcement Personnel:

With your help we can disseminate information throughout the 31 counties in our district. This year one of our goals is to have at least one article per year from at least one agency per county within this district. We would like to share some of your successful crime prevention strategies, tips for crime prevention/investigations, highlight officers and or victim advocates for special acts of service, retirements, etc. Also, please let us know what's on your upcoming training calendar. Please submit this information to: Ms. Lynnette C. McGowens, U.S. Attorney's Office, 1801 4th Avenue, North, Birmingham, AL 35203-2101, fax number: (205) 244-2180, email: Lynnette.McGowens@usdoj.gov.

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